

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new section heading and new paragraph immediately following the title and before the section heading “DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY” on the first page of the specification:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a National Stage application under 35 USC 371 of PCT/ES2003/000594, filed Nov. 25, 2003 and based on Spanish Patent Application No. 200202713, filed Nov. 26, 2002.

Please replace the section heading on the first page of the specification as follows:

~~DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY~~ BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the third paragraph on the first page of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

To reach these objectives, the improvements which are the subject of this invention provide for the placement of a sliding closure element for the wire receiving slot (or archwire slot) which can be slid along the ~~length of guide~~ length of a guide in the body of the “bracket” in a form fitted into a part of the slide or moving piece, having preferentially the form of an arc of a circle, remaining in said guide and also in the fitted part which is intended to coincide with same, each set of ridges and grooves allowing it to be connected to the next elastic retainer for the slide in a waiting position before the placement of the inter-relating wires of said “brackets” and another position from which the closure of said slot can be completed. The stability of the slide, which can move in either direction notably, facilitates the manipulation of the “bracket”.

Please add the following new paragraph after the fifth paragraph of the specification and before the first full paragraph on page two of the specification (before the brief descriptions of the several drawings):

The foregoing and other objectives, features, and advantages of the invention will be more readily understood upon consideration of the following detailed description of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Please add the following new section heading before the first full paragraph on page two of the specification (before the brief descriptions of the several drawings):

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL DRAWINGS

Please replace the second full paragraph on page two of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 4, 5, and 6 are each cross-sectional views in the indicated planes showing the guiding arrangement and the retaining elements of the moving slide and the guide. **Figure 4** represents a cross-sectional view corresponding with the reference line marked “IV” in Figure 3. **Figure 6** represents a cross-sectional view corresponding with the reference line marked “VI” in Figure 4.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page two of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

~~**Figure 6** following (page 3/11)~~ **Figure 6 BIS** shows a variation in the guide with dovetail.

Please add the following new section heading after the fifth paragraph and before the sixth paragraph on page three of the specification:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace the second full paragraph on page four of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The edges of the dovetail and of the corresponding guide may be rounded off to dissipate torsion forces, which otherwise could result in possible structural fractures, as has been ~~shown in Figure 6 bis with~~ shown in Figure 6 BIS with numbers -19-, -20-, and -21-.

Please replace the fifth full paragraph on page four of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In order to obtain a firm and secure retention of the slide -11- in its two extreme positions, that is to say, of the closing and the opening of the curved side 6 for the introduction of the wire, the bottom of the guide slot -13- shall have smooth entry points, indicated by numbers -22- and -22'-, in which can fit the extrusion -16- from the lower part of the guide ridge -12- of the slide -11-. In this way, given sufficient elasticity in the materials employed, it is possible to retain the slide -11- in the two positions mentioned which correspond to the fitting of the ridge -16- in one or the other of the two ~~grooves -22- and -23- previously~~ grooves -22- and -22'- previously indicated.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page five of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

With this disposition, the slide -104- will move along arm -103- with its groove -106- seated in a matched fit to ridge -105- and resting on its lateral edges, which have been shown

with numbers ~~-109-~~ and ~~-110-~~ in ~~Figure -104-~~, on in Figure -17-, on the upper face of the support which has ridge ~~-105-~~.

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page five of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In the version shown in ~~Figures -106- and -107-~~, an in Figures -19- and -20-, an inverse arrangement is provided in which the slot on the guide ~~-105-~~ has a transverse ridge ~~-114-~~ which fits the transverse grooves ~~-115-~~ and ~~-116-~~ on the slide ~~-104-~~ in order to determine the open and closed positions of the slide moving along the base piece.

Please add the following new paragraph after the first full paragraph on page six of the specification:

The terms and expressions which have been employed in the forgoing specification are used therein as terms of description and not of limitation, and there is no intention in the use of such terms and expressions of excluding equivalence of the features shown and described or portions thereof, it being recognized that the scope of the invention is defined and limited only by the claims which follow.

Please add the following new abstract which is provided hereinafter on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.72, and cancel any previous abstract of record: